(b) the number of branches which were proposed to be opened and how many of them have become operational during the above period; and

(c) the time by which the remaining branches of the banks are likely to be made operational?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Information is being collected and to the extent available will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) and (c). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that they have issued 12 authorisations during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 to nationalised banks for opening branches in Assam. Of these, eight branches have since been opened. While authorising opening of branches RBI have advised banks to obtain necessary licences after completion of infrastructural facilities and banks are expected to open the branch within the validity period of the licence which is one year from the date of issue of licence.

Trade with Pakistan

2656. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK :
SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ :
DR. M.P. JAISWAL :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to allow trade with Pakistan at Wagha border;

(b) if so, whether security agencies have expressed their concern in this behalf; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c). Requests received from Indian trade and industry for opening up of Wagah border for overland trade with Pakistan are being looked into, in consultation with all concerned Government agencies.

Export of Marine Products

2657. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity and value of marine products exported during each of the last three years;

(b) the details of the top five States contributing to the country's marine exports; and

(c) the details of countries which are the main importers of India's marine products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The quantity and value of marine products exported during each of the last three years has been as follows :-

Year	Quantity (MT)	Value (Rs. Crores)
1995-96	296277	3501.11
1994-95	307337	3573.27
1993-94	243960	2503.62

(Source : MPEDA)

(b) The following are the top five states alongwith the contribution of each in terms of quantity exported and value realised from the exports of marine products :-

	Quantity (MT)	Value (Rs. Crores)
1. Kerala	78896	856.90
2. Tamil Nadu	31330	719.19
3. Andhra Pradesh	20017	600.88
4. Maharashtra	55357	484.36
5. Gujarat	82558	395.28

(Source : MPEDA)

(c) Following are the countries/markets which are the main importers of marine products from India alongwith the quantity and value of imports during the period 1993-94 to 1995-96 :-

Q : Quantity in MT

V : Value in Rs. Crores

Country/Market		1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Japan	Q:	44985	53500	51789
	V:	1185.67	1643.82	1576.69
European Union	Q:	71850	71224	87211
	V:	648.21	726.30	911.87
USA	Q:	26152	32102	26008
	V:	306.17	490.23	366.26
South East Asia	Q:	87099	135567	112482
	V:	288.40	602.32	501.03

(Source: MPEDA)

NEDB

2658. SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the North Eastern Development Bank has commenced functioning;

(b) if so, the role and objectives of the Bank;

(c) the manner in which its role would be different from the roles of IDBI, SIDBI, ICICI etc;